the mouths of their babies. Reaching the age of three or four months they crawl on hands and feet all over the house just like small dogs. They wallow in the dust and roll unceasingly on the soil and they accustom themselves so well on all fours that when they are adults they run as fast in this way as the French do upright. When their strength allows it they /infants/ stand up, falling more often then they walk. It is amazing to see them continually falling on their hands or on their behinds.

They all eat earth, the mother as well as the children. The cause of such an irregular appetite can be explained to my satisfaction only by an excess of melancholy, which is the predominate humor among all Caribs. This is so true that they find as much delight and satisfaction in eating chalk as they do in eating sugar.

The mothers tenderly love their children and are always on guard to ward off anything harmful which might happen to them. They almost always hold them suspended at the breast. When they go to sleep at night in their awkward hammocks it is amazing that they never smother their children, for they often go to bed completely drunk and out of their mind. They /mothers/ are rarely separated from their children and in all trips by sea or land they carry them under their arm in a small cotton hammock which is slung from their shoulder in order that they will always have in front of their eyes the object of their care.

If it happens that the husband leaves his wife, she keeps all of the children and she never gives any of them to him unless she is compelled by force to do so. Children who have been abandoned by their father help their mother and provide subsistence. When the children are older, if they are boys they follow the father and eat with him. If they are girls they follow the mother and eat with her. All of the children, boys as well as girls, are raised by their mothers and fathers more as if they were beasts than as rational beings. They do not teach them to be either civil or honorable. They do not even learn to say good morning, or good evening, nor to thank people for small favors. As a result of this training they don't honor their parents either in words or in respectful attitudes. If they obey their parents' commands this comes more from whim than from the respect which they bear them. This wildness of behavior continues among the children, since

they are seldom corrected even if they mistreat their fathers and mothers; most of them are not even reprimanded for such terrible conduct.

Nakedness does not shame them [the children], and they belch, fart, and carry on all the other necessities of nature without any restraint. Their fathers and mothers do not teach them anything except how to fish, to shoot with a bow, to swim, and to weave small baskets and cotton hammocks.

When the boys and girls have reached the age of puberty they fast for three weeks or one month and their skin is cut with agouti teeth as we mentioned previously. When the Caribs want to make one of their young men a captain or raise him to the rank of warrior, the young man obtains in advance a bird of prey called Mancefenil, [Manifénil] which he feeds until the time it is destined for this ceremony. When this day arrives the father invites the most distinguished and oldest of his friends, and when they come together he has his son sit on a stool and encourages him to be courageous in his battles and to revenge himself on his enemies. He then takes the bird by the feet and breaks and crushes its head by striking it against the head of his son. Although he is almost stunned by the blows he has received, the son must not even raise his eyebrows if he wishes to be considered a brave warrior. Then the father mangles and crushes the body of the bird and soaks it in water with a quantity of pimentos. He cuts the skin of his son all over the body and washes him with this spiced water and finally gives him the heart of the Mancefenil bird to eat. This is done, they say, so that he will become more courageous.

Afterwards a cotton hammock is hung for him from the roof of the house and he is laid stretched out in it. He is to stay there without eating or drinking or moving in any way until his strength is almost gone. They firmly believe that if he should twist himself during this time he would remain in this position for the rest of his life. When the son has passed this test, which is so rigorous that occasionally one of them dies, he passes as a valorous soldier, even though he may very often be only a coward.

It should be noticed in speaking of their marriages that the young people do not know what it is to make love before they are married. When they wish to marry a girl who does not belong to them by right

11: Taylor E-5 (ca. 1930-1937)1946
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its tongue "to break the thread" (?) so that it may the sooner learn to speak. Then she stretches the limbs, pinches the nose, and "gives the head a nice shape" by pressing the forehead with her thumb-pads upward and backward from the supraorbital ridges toward the crown. This proceeding is continued by massaging the forehead, using a circular and upward motion of the palm of the hand. No measures are taken today to maintain the head-shape thus given, and "only old-timers bother to make a child look nice, nowadays." A bulbous or protruding forehead is considered ugly.

The accouchée has to submit to a strict regime for forty days, but the newborn child is suckled in what to us is a haphazard way, given arrowroot or *Cassa* starch and herbal teas from the start, and handled by all members of the household.

The baby-name given to the child at birth is today that by which it is registered; while the "true" name, chosen by the sponsor of like sex, is that now given in baptism. This rite, at which the parents do not assist, usually takes place a month or so after birth, and is followed by either a feast or dance or both. Godparents are chosen rather for their social or economic status than for any spiritual qualities. The relationship is, however, taken very seriously, and parents and godparents address one another as "compère" and "commère." The ears of female infants are pierced and a thread passed through the hole in order to keep it open until such time as rings are acquired.

Apart from the baby-name and patronymic (baptismal names are, at least among older Caribs, not easily divulged) modern Caribs are supposed to have surnames, which they call tizres *titles*. But these are infrequently and irregularly employed, and usually consist of the given name of a grandfather or greatgrandfather. Brothers sometimes bear different "titles"! Illegitimate children take their father's name (as patronymic) and "title."

As soon as they learn to walk, Carib children follow their mothers or big sisters to the river morning and evening, and so acquire early a taste for bathing and the habit of carrying little calabashes of water or other loads more in play than in earnest. Soon their fathers or big brothers make for them tiny carry-alls (shoulder-baskets), traps, fishing rods, etc., so that play and work merge into one another. One of the few non-utilitarian amusements—for some grown-ups as well as for children—is to "run the waves" (courir lames), a local variety of surf-riding which Breton also recorded. When available, the "seat" of a canoe—a plank seat about 9 inches wide by 2½ to 3 ft long—is used; but with a favorable surf, very good "rides" may be had without it, merely by stiffening the body and using the outstretched hands as a rudder.